



**Department of Community Initiatives  
Children's Resources Division  
Kindergarten Readiness Project**



- ◆ Developed as a result of a local survey of employers pertaining to skills and abilities necessary in the San Antonio workforce.
- ◆ Supports the core issues of Early Childhood Education and Family strengthening in the Better Jobs Initiative.
- ◆ Collaborative effort between the City of San Antonio, Urban Systemic Initiative (USI), Bexar County school districts, the Smart Start Corporate Collaborative, the local child care community and other local community based organizations.
- ◆ Seventeen model sites, each consisting of a public elementary school, two child care programs, and the community of parents, children, teachers, and business entities.
- ◆ Members of the Commission for Children and Families have each adopted a model site, in their district, to assist in additional supports and updates to the mayor, council, and the public.
- ◆ City wide dissemination of the "Kindergarten Readiness Guidelines" developed by a joint committee of educators, parents, and early childhood specialists.
- ◆ Integration of TEA Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines to create alignment of prekindergarten programs with the TEKS curriculum.
- ◆ Kindergarten Readiness Project Desired Outcomes:
  1. Increased awareness on the part of parents as a child's first teacher.
  2. Improved communication between early childhood providers and elementary school staff.
  3. Increased expectations on the part of early childhood provider systems.
  4. Improvement of student data at the elementary school, particularly in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade TAAS.
- ◆ Project outcomes and effectiveness measured through a collaborative effort between COSA and UTSA.
- ◆ The Children's Defense Fund has shown that 33% of children enter kindergarten unprepared.
- ◆ Recent research indicates that for every \$1 invested in early childhood education, there will be \$4.47 increase in economic activity for the community.

# **Kindergarten Readiness Implementation Strategies**

## **Outcome: Increased Awareness on the Part of Parents**

- Kindergarten Readiness Guideline Distribution
  - Distribution through public schools and child care centers
  - Brainstorm with public school and child care staff to identify local business entities, religious communities, and social agencies as additional distribution points and support
  - Conduct neighborhood awareness activities (i.e. BBQ's and carnivals) to promote and educate parents, children, and teachers about the Kindergarten Readiness Guidelines.
  - Conduct door to door neighborhood canvassing to distribute and promote the Kindergarten Readiness Guidelines
- Parent Education
  - Implement parenting education and literacy classes/programs in collaboration with local community based agencies (i.e. Family Services, SMART START, public libraries, and Learning and Leadership Development Centers).

## **Outcome: Improved Communication Between Early Childhood Providers and Elementary School Staff**

- Conduct in-service training and site visits between elementary schools and early childhood programs with the intent of aligning curriculum.
- Sharing of syllabi between public kindergarten and early childhood programs
- Submit quarterly newsletters to targeted early childhood providers facilitated by a Urban Systemic Initiative (USI) mentor teacher reflecting updates and significant events on the public school campuses.
- Establish an email “buddy system” to link public kindergarten teachers with early childhood providers in each model site to encourage collaboration and support.

## **Outcome: Increased Expectations on the Part of the Early Childhood Provider Systems**

- Participation of early childhood providers in professional development offered by the public elementary schools
- Participation of public school kindergarten staff in professionally developed training and events offered by early childhood programs
- Implement scholarship opportunities for early childhood staff to pursue formal education in child development and early childhood education.
- Study the feasibility of creating a wage compensation program for early childhood providers that pursue formal education and commit to employment in targeted early childhood programs for a predetermined length of time

## **Outcome: Improvement of Student Data at the Elementary Schools, Especially in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade TAAS**

- Collaborate with the University of Texas at San Antonio to:
  - conduct pre and post surveys to determine general awareness of the Kindergarten readiness guidelines in each targeted community
  - conduct pre and post assessments of early childhood education and public kindergarten programs
  - identify and follow progress of initial cohort of students up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade TAAS reporting



## Better Jobs San Antonio Kindergarten Readiness Model Sites

- ◆ Council District 1: Cotton Elementary (SAI SD)  
San Antonio College Child Development Center (*Star Provider*)  
Our Kid's Too (San Pedro)

\*Model supported by Positive Beginnings Inc.

- ◆ Council District 2: Gates Elementary (SAI SD)  
Grace Seashells  
PCI New Light Head Start Program

\*Model supported by Positive Beginnings Inc.

- ◆ Council District 2: Park Village Elementary (Judson I SD)  
Children's World #476 (*Star Provider*)  
Kindercare #341

\*Model supported by KLRN/Family Service Association.

- ◆ Council District 3: Ball Elementary (SAI SD)  
Jennie & Mikie's Child Care (*Star Provider*)  
PCI Candycane (*Star Provider*)

\*Model supported by KLRN/Family Service Association

- ◆ Council District 4: Vestal Elementary (Harlandale I SD)  
Kathy's Kountry Kids  
La Petite Academy (Rayburn)

\*Model supported by AVANCE

- ◆ Council District 4: John Glenn Elementary (NSI SD)  
Angel Valley  
Silver Spoon's Pre-School

\*Model supported by Northside Independent School District

- ◆ Council District 4: Hutchins Elementary (South San)  
De Paul Child Development Center (*Star Provider*)  
Poppy's Kiddie Kampus

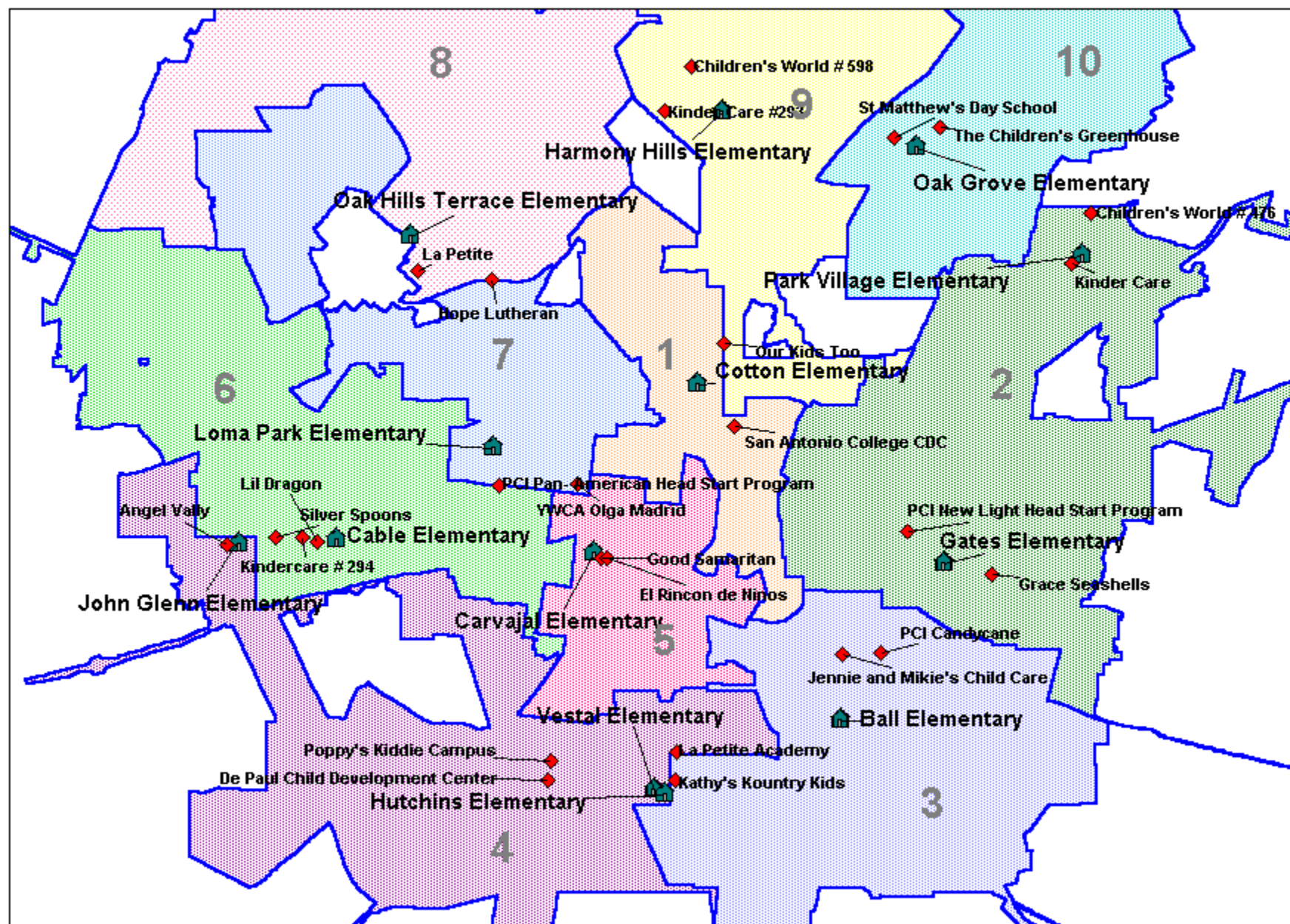
\*Model supported by KLRN/Family Service Association

- ◆ Council District 5: Carvajal Elementary (SAI SD)  
Good Samaritan Center (*Star Provider*)  
El Rincon De Ninos (*Star Provider*)

\*Model supported by AVANCE

- ◆ Council District 5: DeZavala Elementary (SAI SD)  
PCI Guadalupe  
Metropolitan  
\*Model supported by KLRN/Family Service Association
- ◆ Council District 5: Ruiz Elementary (SAI SD)  
PCI Santa Cruz  
Inman Christian Center (*Star Provider*)  
\* Model supported by Avance
- ◆ Council District 6: Cable Elementary (NSI SD)  
Kindercare #294  
Lil Dragon  
\*Model supported by Northside Independent School District
- ◆ Council District 7: Loma Park Elementary (Edgewood I SD)  
PCI Pan-American Headstart  
YWCA Olga H. Madrid Center  
\*Model supported by YWCA
- ◆ Council District 7: Arnold Elementary (SAI SD)  
Pilgrim Congregational School (*Star Provider*)  
St. Mark's United Methodist  
\*Model Supported by KLRN/Family Service Association
- ◆ Council District 7: Maverick Elementary (SAI SD)  
Bo Peep Learning Center  
First Mexican Baptist Church CDC  
\* Model Supported by YWCA
- ◆ Council District 8: Oak Hills Terrace Elementary (NSI SD)  
Hope Lutheran Child Care Center (*Star Provider*)  
La Petite (Wurzbach)  
\*Model supported by KLRN/Family Service Association
- ◆ Council District 9: Harmony Hills Elementary (NEI SD)  
Children's World #598  
Kinder Care #293  
\*Model supported by KLRN/Family Service Association
- ◆ Council District 10: Oak Grove Elementary (NEI SD)  
The Children's Greenhouse  
Castle Hills Learning #4  
\*Model supported by KLRN/Family Service Association

# Partnerships for Kinder Readiness Guidelines



\* This map is in the process of being updated. It doesn't include the additional 4 model sites that were added Oct 1 2001.